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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Application of: | A. Loukola, et al. | Group Art Unit: | To be assigned |
| Serial Number:  | To be assigned     | Examiner:       | To be assigned |
| Filing Date:    | To be assigned     | Docket No.      | PB0262         |
| Title:          | Detection Methods  |                 |                |

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

March 24, 2005

**Introductory Comments**

Sir:

Please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the prosecution of the captioned application, which is a filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and claims priority to international application number PCT/US2003/030359 filed September 25, 2003. This application also claims priority to United States provisional patent application numbers 60/413,583 filed September 25, 2002 and 60/491,842 filed August 1, 2003.